GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:558
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2002
TRADE RELATIONS WITH AFRICAN COUNTRIES
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to strengthen its trade relations with African countries

(b) whether any potential item/commodity has been identified for exports; and

(c) if so, the details of the plan?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 558 for 3rd May regarding Trade Relations with African Countries

(a) Yes Sir, For enhancing India`s trade with the sub-Saharan African region, a programme of `Focus-Africa` has been launched on 31st March 2002 along with EXIM Policy for the years 2002-07.

(b) The programme will focus on the following major product groups for enhancing India`s exports to the Sub-Saharan African Region:

- Cotton yarn, fabrics and other textile items;
- Drugs & Pharmaceuticals;
- Machinery & Instruments;
- Transport equipment; and
- Telecom and Information Technology

(c) It aims to increase interaction between the two regions by identifying areas of bilateral trade and investment. The exports to the Region are envisaged to be enhanced through combined efforts of Government of India, India Trade Promotion Organisation, Export Promotion Councils, Apex Chambers of Commerce & Industry, Indian Missions and Institutions such as EXIM Bank, Export credi Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) etc.